

AMIAA NEWS

Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America
JULY/AUGUST 2001 - Vol. XXXV No. 4 (ISSN 1097-0924)

The Rev. Jirair Sogomian
Editor



In Memoriam
AMAA Past President
H. Philip Hovnanian, Ph.D.
1914-2001

Hope that Does Not Disappoint Us

Jirair M. Sogomian

*There are times and conditions in life when the temptation to embrace pessimism or even flirt with cynicism is quite alluring. When people on whom we have learned to lean for support, help and a source of strength are suddenly taken away from us; when causes for the success of which we have dedicated our lives in sacrificial labor become trapping dead ends; when deplorable human conditions we have worked hard to improve stubbornly refuse to yield and our cries for human justice and righteousness fall on deaf ears, how easy it seems for us to throw in the towel and to walk away from that which has consumed a good part of our life energies! And yet, what sustains us in those awful moments of disappointment and despair is **Christian Hope**! I say **Christian Hope**, because the word “Hope” in its everyday, secular use has become synonymous to wishful thinking, good luck, or at its best easy optimism.*

When one seriously considers the present social, political, economic and spiritual conditions in the Middle East or Armenia; when one reads major articles in the press describing the untenable conditions of people caught in the grind of national and international conflicts, “Hope” in the secular sense will obviously be a meaningless gamble too shallow to carry the weight of times and too weak to sustain us in the inadequacy and pain of our own failure to bring about a positive and decisive change to the human condition.

To anyone who has followed closely the tragic history of Armenia since the devastating earthquake in 1988, or studied the social, political and economic vicissitudes in Lebanon since the fratricidal civil war in 1975 which brought a thriving country to its knees; one is bound to wonder with the psalmist, “*How long, O Lord?... will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart?*”

Yet, it is exactly in such times and places that Christians “*seize the hope set before us*” (Heb 6:18) and *use it as a steadfast anchor of their soul*, because they are a people who are born “*into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*” (1 Peter 1:3) It is exactly in such circumstances that Christians not only *seize the living hope set before them*, but also share that hope and keep it alive with those who need it most. We are a people who are called to keep hope alive in a world which challenges our capacity to hope, and we do so by refusing to believe that the death of our loved ones

or the serious challenges to our dreams and visions can defeat the Resurrected One on whom our hope is anchored!

Those of us who happen to be in the minority camp of this world’s privileged, must become a source of hope for the suffering poor and the despairing dispossessed in this cruel and unjust world. But even more accurately, we must become channels of hope to the God who is the Source of Hope, and instruments of the Holy Spirit’s sustaining power of hope! With all that is within us - with all the resources, spiritual gifts and talents that God has entrusted us - we must reach beyond ourselves and give hope to those who are about to give up, to impoverished people bereft of hope who have never heard the wonderful and life-changing Good News that God is *a sure and steadfast anchor of our soul*!

What moves us to step into the unknown and unpredictable future with the confidence of our faith; what moves us to incarnate Christ’s love to the undesirable and unlovable of this world, is the hope that lies at the core of all our mission endeavors. Everything we do as those empowered by the Holy Spirit and sent out by the Christ – every dollar we share, every bit of time and energy we spare, and every act of compassion we dare – we do so with the hopeful anticipation that God is creating something new through us that anticipates his total lordship and reign on this earth. Hope is God’s gift to you and to me, let us share it as we share all our other God-given gifts.□

In Memoriam: Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian

Andy Torigian

Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian, who was a prominent leader and a former President of our Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), made the transition from this life to life eternal on Friday, May 25, 2001. Dr. Hovnanian was a personal friend of mine, and he was a warm and loving person who always reached out to his fellow man.

Dr. Hovnanian was mission minded and a committed Christian. He was a great leader who served the Armenian Evangelical Community and the AMAA for many years until the last day of his life.

I remember at the November 12, 1988 session of the AMAA Board of Directors, in Paramus, NJ, when Dr. Hovnanian was unanimously elected President of the AMAA, a very challenging position. And at that time, no one knew what would happen in December of that same year.

A few days in his new position as President of the AMAA, the sad news came of the devastating earthquake in Armenia which killed more than 25,000 people.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hovnanian and our late Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian, the AMAA responded to Armenia's urgent needs. The AMAA headquarters was open 24 hours a day in order to organize relief efforts from the United States and throughout the world.

Dr. Hovnanian was in the office almost every day assisting the Executive Director, our late Brother Movses.

We do believe that once again God had guided the AMAA Board to choose the right person at the right time. Philip was a devoted Armenian and a caring Christian who took the huge responsibility quietly on his shoulders and without hesitation. It was indeed a demanding task, and our brother, Philip, handled it tirelessly and efficiently.

He served as President of our Association until the end of 1990. Dr. Hovnanian had an extensive experience and commitment to the Armenian Evangelical life. He had served as Moderator and Trustee of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA, and later as the Moderator of the Ar-

menian Evangelical Church of New York. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Moderator of the Congregational Church of Huntington, New York. He also served the AMAA as: Chairman of Haigazian College Eastern Committee, on the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee, also on committees such as Investment, Budget/Finance, Audio-Visual and Constitution/By-laws. He represented the AMAA, with Rev. Movses Janbazian, on the Armenian Refugee Committee.

Philip comes from a long line of Armenian Evangelical families. His father, Philip Hovnanian, an M.D., was the national hero who had saved hundreds of Armenian lives during World War I utilizing his privileged position as Head of the German Hospital of the famous Berlin-Baghdad Railway, in Eintili, Turkey. There are numerous poignant stories about the daring and heroic deeds the Senior Dr. Hovnanian gave to our nation in its martyrdom, at great peril to himself and his family. So you can see our Dr. Philip had a strong start in life to walk the right path.

Professionally, Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian was a physicist/engineer who until recently was Corporate Vice President of public companies such as Cavitron Corp. (AMEX) and its successors Cooper Labs (NYSE). He was a Fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (London), a Charter Physicist (UK), P.E. (NY, MA), and Honor-



Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian (left) with Robert Hekemian, Sr. and Dr. Ara Manougian at the dedication service (August 25, 1989) of the first Mobile Medical Clinic sent to Armenia by the AMAA.

ary Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Electrosurgery. He had served on FDA advisory panels on Medical Devices (Ophthalmic, ENT, Dental and OB/GYN). He had been a Research Associate in Surgical Research at Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Boston, MA. He was in Marquis' Who's Who in America; Who's Who in the World; American Men and Women of Science; Who's Who in New York; Who's Who in Science and Technology. In fact, because of Philip's background, he advised us to go heavy into the stocks of various drug companies when he was on our AMAA Investment Advisory Committee and as a result of the appreciation of those securities, that is now the largest percentage of our equity portfolio. We shall miss Philip, his kindness and his humanitarianism, but his legacy will always be with us. □

Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dr. Hovnanian

A Memorial Service for Herair Philip Hovnanian, Ph.D. was held on Sunday, June 24, 2001, at 11:00 A.M. during the morning Worship Service of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. The President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Andy Torigian gave a testimonial message on behalf of the Association, which, in his absence (due to illness) was read by the AMAA's Executive Director, The Rev. Jirair Sogomian. Dr. Hovnanian's son, Mr. John Hovnanian and cousin, Mr. Harry Koundakjian, presented eulogies and remembrances. They both highlighted with praise and thanksgiving the life of Dr. Hovnanian as a loving tribute to a man, who throughout his life has served his Lord and people with much dedication. Cousin Harry spoke of his family: of Hrair's famous father, Dr. Philip Hovnanian, who was a

prominent doctor in Eintili, Turkey and later in Aleppo, Syria; of early memories and recent associations; of Hrair's devotion to church and how "orphaned" those left behind feel. The pastor of the Church, The Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, delivered the Memorial Worship Service sermon. Throughout the Memorial Service the church choir sang hymns and *sharagans* under the direction of the choir director/organist, Ms. Ivanka Petkovic.

A large number of family members, friends and church members attended the service and the memorial meal that followed. Other friends and church members were given opportunity during the memorial meal to share their sweet memories of Dr. Hovnanian. Rev. Doghramji read condolence letters received from relatives, friends and former pastors of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

At the request of the Hovnanian family, memorial donations in lieu of flowers were designated to the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

A Private interment service attended by immediate family members was held on Saturday, June 30, 1:15 P.M. at Winchester cemetery near Boston, MA. The service was officiated by The Rev. Sam Agulian, pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA, and with the participation of The Rev. Bernard Guekguezian, interim pastor of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, MA and The Rev. Jirair Sogomian, representing the AMAA. The service was followed by a memorial meal.

This issue of the AMAA NEWS is dedicated to the loving memory of Dr. Hovnanian, as a tribute to a man whose life and testimony can be a source of inspiration to all. □

H. PHILIP HOVNANIAN (BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH)

H. Philip Hovnanian—Physicist, biomedical engineer, was born in Aleppo, Syria and was the son of Philip and Rosa (Jebejian). He married Siran Norian June 10, 1948 and they had three children: Rosemary Janice, Joan Anita, John Philip. He received his B.S. in Physics from American University of Beirut with additional post-graduate work at the same university and later at Brown University in Providence, RI. He received his M.S. from Boston State College and Ph.D. from University of Beverly Hills, CA. He was registered professional engineer in NY and Mass. Starting in 1949, he held high-ranking positions in 11 companies in the fields of physics, engineering, research and development in medical sciences, lunar sciences (at NASA), biomedical engineering and biophysics. Throughout his career, he served on many scientific panels, most notably for the FDA, acted as consultant to several firms and guest-lectured at Northeastern University, MIT-Harvard study groups on biomedical engineering and at numerous symposia throughout the United States and Europe. He belonged to many professional organizations (notably IEEE as a lifetime member) and was a Fellow of the British Institute of Physics. In addition he held several patents in his field (notably his pioneering work in fiber optics) and was a frequent contributor to numerous technical and professional journals.

He was Past president and board member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, deacon, moderator and trustee of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York and a lifetime member of the Masons.



Dr. Hovnanian, at the annual convention of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East representing the AMAA (1999).

"In the Orbit of God" In Memory of H. Philip Hovnanian, Ph.D.

*Peter Doghramji

Not too long ago, we all knew how to define death. Death was defined as the cessation of breathing accompanied by the stopping of the heartbeat. A person was declared dead when there was no pulse or breathing. We have heard some tragic stories, some bordering on the humorous, of persons who were assumed dead, but were not. That is why governments passed the law that a medical doctor has to give a written statement to confirm the death of a person. These days we need permits, licenses and certificates for all aspects of life, and even death. You need a certificate to die. Without such a death certificate a person cannot be cremated or buried.

Today definitions of death are more sophisticated. They have to do with brain waves as well as the cessation of vital signs. How does the Bible define death? Is there a Biblical text which clearly defines death? Perhaps not; but there is an important passage in St. Paul's letter to the Church in Rome where we have a wholistic definition of death. Death is **total separation** or **separatedness**.

Death is a process. It takes a long time for most people to die. We are all dying a slow death daily. Today, with the death of our brother Hrair, we all died a little. Similarly, the older we get, the closer we are to that point at which the body begins to **disintegrate**. We lose our physical integrity. Parts of the body do not work together any more. Each part separates itself, or is separated, from the other. The process of separation and disintegration may take a while; however, it culminates in death.

St Paul does not write about the physical separatedness or disintegration of a

person, but of the person's **total separatedness** from other persons, including God. In death we are totally separated from friends and loved ones. There is nothing lonelier than death. The separation is total and final. Such separation includes body, mind, soul and spirit—the whole person. The Greek idea of the immortality of the soul is simply that—a Greek idea. It is not Christian, nor is it Biblical. In the Greek philosophical teachings, the soul is the idea or form dwelling in matter. Matter disintegrates, but the soul remains intact. Christians borrowed this concept and added the moral necessity of heaven and hell. The immortal soul goes to heaven or hell according to one's behavior while in the body. In contrast, the Biblical view is an integrated and wholistic explication of life in which body and spirit are inseparable. That is why God creates "heaven and earth" in the beginning, the spiritual and the physical. That is why God re-creates them as the "new heaven and the new earth." That is why the Apostles' Creed says, "I believe in the resurrection of the body."

Death, then is the total separation or alienation of the entire person from all life, including the Source of all life, God.

All this is bad news. Is there good news in St. Paul's Epistle? Is there a gospel in his definition of death? Yes, indeed. Let us read it aloud: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" asks Paul. Does death separate us from Christ's love? The answer is in two parts. First, negatively speaking, St. Paul says that no adversity, not even death can ever separate us from the living Christ. Neither "tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor sword." Dr. Philip Hovnanian, both a churchman and a missionary, is a living testimony of this declaration. He was a child of the Armenian Genocide. Yet nothing, no persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword

separated him and his family from the love of Christ and his church and its mission. Likewise, in this 1700th anniversary of the birth of Armenian Christianity, every single Armenian Christian joins St. Paul who declared more than two centuries before, that nothing can separate us from Christ and his love. In other words, our relationship with the resurrected and living Christ is stronger than death, and victorious over it.

There is a more positive answer as well. He continues: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." We are in the orbit of God.

We may be tempted to say that adversity can separate friend from friend, loved one from the beloved, and even from God. St. Paul goes much further. Even good things in life do not separate us from God. In other words, we are in God's **orbit** in adversity and in plenty, in all circumstances. Sometimes our orbit may be much larger as we put more distance between us and the Center of our life, who is God. Yet the love of God, like the force of gravity, pulls us always into orbit—near or far. Nothing can cause the decay or the deterioration of that orbit. In this physical body, or in a new resurrected one, wherever we may be or whatever we may become, we are always in the orbit of God's love, and that orbit is Christ himself.

This is the good news which our brother Hrair Philip Hovnanian lived and proclaimed, in word and in deed, as his life circled around God, and as he continues to revolve in the orbit of God.

If Philip were able to speak to us today, or even preach a sermon at his memorial, I am sure he would say: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God! We are in God's orbit." Amen.□

* Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji is the minister of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. This message was delivered on June 24, 2001, during the Memorial Service for Dr. H. Philip Hovnanian.

My Dad: H. Philip Hovnanian

Made his living as a man of science/Lived his life as a man of the church

John Hovnanian

Eleven years ago I stood up on this podium and shared with the people in this place of worship my fondest thoughts of my sister Joan. That was an extremely difficult day for my family and me. My sister died tragically young. At first, I found myself struggling to write down words that would come across as a celebration of Joan's life rather than share the pain of her untimely death. Fortunately for me, Joan was such a joy in life that once I got started, the words flowed.

Now eleven years later, I find myself up here again to share my thoughts of another family member, my Dad. As I struggled to start this eulogy, I realized that as sad as it has been for me to lose him, my Dad's life was full..... and what he accomplished on this earth brings cause for celebration.

My father had two distinctive sides to him, his work as a scientist and his work for the church. I will first make an attempt to capture some of the highlights of his work in science..... So much has been written about Dad and his accomplishments in the biomedical. The Marquis Who's Who in Medicine & Healthcare, Who's Who in Science & Engineering, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World.

The story I am about to share with you will give you full appreciation of the magnitude of my dad's accomplishments

The last week of my father's life, I spent a great deal of time with him in the hospital. Sitting by his side I saw and spoke with many healthcare professionals who were assisting in my Dad's care. I happened to strike up a conversation with one doctor about some of my dad's early work in fiber optics. I told him that Dad was one of the first scientists to realize (back in the 50's) that since light traveled through fiber optics with little or no heat transference, there were endless possibilities for application within the medical field. Dad went on to fasten a lens to one end of a fiber optic bundle and hook up the other end of the bundle to a closed circuit television. He and his colleagues then lowered the lens end down a test subject's throat, into his stomach and viewed the inside of his stomach on the tele-

vision. This may seem unremarkable compared to today's science where "scoping" patients has become routine in medical examinations but in the mid 50's it had never been done before. The only way medical professionals could view the inside of a living being was by surgical incision.

After sharing this story with the doctor, he looked down at Dad, then looked back up at me and said, "Do you have any idea how many millions of lives have been saved as a result of the pioneering work your dad did?" I will never forget the impact of that question on me. For all of us who have benefited from the results of a scoping examination, myself included, I want to say...thanks Dad.

Dad's relationship, dedication and service to the church and the Armenian Missionary Association of America spanned more than fifty years. Many of you have sent wonderful words of condolence to Janice and myself. I know I can speak for her and say that we both thank you for the outpouring of support. A few comments stood out to me that I would like to share with you: Rev. Sam Agulian of the Watertown, MA. Church who I asked to speak at Dad's gravesite next week told me he and the other ministers in the association "looked up to my Dad as a father figure." Rev. Jirair Sogomian, the Executive Director of the AMAA wrote to my sister and me the following: "It was my privilege to know your father for the last four decades and to admire him for his outstanding personal achievements and his total dedication to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. His involvement in the AMAA was multi-faceted, providing leadership as President of the Association and serving on a host of committees as chair and fully participating member. We feel poorer for his loss and will definitely miss his wise council and experienced guidance." And the Rev. Artin Ashjian wrote this to me: "Your late father Philip and I happen to be in a Kindergarten graduation picture taken in 1926. When we renewed our acquaintance in 1978, the year I settled in the New York Metro area, your father did not hesitate referring to me as "my classmate" whenever I met him. He was re-

spected not only for his erudition but also more importantly for his humility, his talents as a calm and wise leader and especially for his faith and charitable spirit. Because Philip and I worshiped in different churches, we did not see each other frequently. I will always cherish the moments when I was watching him or conversing with him at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, at picnics or even at Caldor's, where he used to shop. My wife Mary and I miss him already".

As a father, Dad encouraged the spirit and passion of following one's dreams. When I first started college I told Dad that I was thinking of changing my major from Political Science to Business. He looked at me and asked why. I responded by saying that I thought I could get a better job after graduation. Dad became agitated and said to me that I was missing the point of my college experience. He went on to say that college was the only time in my adult life that I would be able to learn something passionately interesting to me and that it was that interest that I should follow. As he put it, "Don't worry about the money, if you are interested in what you are learning, the money will come later." I took Dad's advice and it paid off. The education I received in college has been extraordinarily helpful in the development of my career.

Through the years, my family has experienced much tragedy. My parents had their marital troubles. We almost lost my sister Janice and her husband 15 years ago to a terrible fire in their home. My parents lived to see the death of one of their daughters, Joan 11 years ago... something no parent should have to go through. And finally, my father's own 10 year battle with cancer. Throughout these milestones and others, my father's faith never wavered. In his darkest hours, he found solace in reading the Bible. On low days he would call me and talk to me about a specific verse in the Bible he had revisited and how it had comforted him. We always ended our conversations with Dad saying to me that "We are going to beat this thing" and that we loved each other. In fact, the last thing I remember my Dad saying in the hospital was "John. We are going to beat this thing".

Well Dad. Your body may have finally given in to the disease you fought so bravely for all those years but rest assured... you did beat that thing. For your legacy will live on for generations to come.□

AMAC's Missions Banquet

The Missions Banquet organized by the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto and the Armenian Missionary Association at Canada (AMAC) was held on Saturday, June 9, 2001 at the Banquet Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Church.

After his opening remarks, Mr. Mihran Jizmejian, the Executive Secretary of AMAC and master of ceremonies, invited The Rev. Fr. Elias Kiredjian of the Armenian Catholic Church, to offer the invocation. He then introduced the clergy and special guests of the Armenian Community of Toronto, who were invited to meet our Executive Director, The Rev. Jirair Sogomian. Those present were: The Very Rev. Fr. Shahe Panossian of St. Mary's Apostolic Church, The Rev. Fr. Elias Kiredjian, Deacon Haik Mirzakhanian & Antranig Mirzayan, the representatives of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and Mr. Sarkis Assadourian, Member of Parliament who presented an appreciation plaque to The Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian and first day covers of 1700th Anniversary Canadian Commemoration Stamps to him and to The Rev. Sogomian.

The guests were then entertained by Anya Alexeyev (Sarkissian) with a musical selection on the piano and Mrs. Lena Beylerian sang two classical Armenian songs accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Nune Verdian.

Following the message and the report of our mission work in Armenia, given by The Rev. Jirair Sogomian, the pledge forms were collected and an auction took place. The appeal raised well over \$5,000 for the various mission projects of the Armenian Missionary Association, and the revenue from the auction was \$900 earmarked to provide employment possibilities in Armenia.

Over 140 guests at the Banquet enjoyed the delicious food served by the church youth. The artistic program and the pleasant environment contributed greatly to the success of this fund raising activity.

In his closing remarks on behalf of the



Member of Parliament, Mr. Sarkis Assadourian presenting the special Canadian Commemoration Stamps of 1700th Anniversary of Armenian Christianity to Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian.

Association the Executive Secretary Mr. Jizmejian, thanked the Guest speaker and all those present for their contribution in the successful celebration of this Missions Banquet. Special thanks to the Banquet Committee members Salpy Deirmenjian, Maral Hasserjian, Vartouhi Jizmejian, Siran Jizmejian, Loris Panossian and Silva Yenovkian and the volunteers for their relentless effort in making the Banquet a success. The celebrations ended with the singing of the Lords prayer and the benediction offered by The Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian. □

CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

The AMAA's ARMENIA SUMMER CAMP AND CHRISTMAS JOY COMMITTEE year round go from one action program to the next. In winter, they collect items for the summer camps, which this year was focused on an intensive "Search for Sneakers", and yielded surprisingly good results. In summer they gear up for Christmas.

This fall, on October 11th, at 11:30 A.M. a Tea Party, at the AMAA's Headquarters, with the theme "Christmas in October" will be the fund raiser for the children's "Christmas Joy Packages" in Armenia, Georgia and Karabagh. Each Armenian Children's Christmas Joy Package will include school supplies, hygienic supplies, a small toy and candies and it will cost about \$ 5.00 each.

We would like to thank you for your generous support of these programs and the consistency with which you have given. Please mark your calendars for the afore-mentioned Tea Party to which you are cordially invited. If you are unable to be with us on October 11th, you may wish to make a donation in lieu of gift packages, and send it to the AMAA. Your

donation will bring a little cheer into the lives of Armenian orphans and needy children, and your act of love will help children of Armenia understand the meaning of Christmas.

I am unable to attend the the Tea Party in support of "Christmas Joy Packages" for children in Armenia, but I would like to make a donation.

Enclosed please find ----- U.S. Dollars for ---- Armenian Children's Joy Packages.

Name -----

Address -----

(Make tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA, earmarked for Christmas Joy Package and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652)

Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe Meets in Paris

Dikran Youmshakian

The Armenian Evangelical Fellowship of Europe (AEFU) was established in May of 1998 in Issy Les Moulineaux, France, through the initiating efforts of the AMAA and in consultation with the Armenian Evangelical Union in France. The purpose was to establish a fellowship and strengthen ties between Armenian Evangelical Churches in Europe and keep them in touch with Armenian Evangelical Unions and the AMAA. The Fellowship includes 15 member churches from 5 countries in Europe in addition to the AMAA. Member churches are from Bulgaria, Belgium, Greece, France and Turkey.

The Fellowship meets every two years. The second meeting was held on Wednesday, May 23, 2001 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy Les Moulineaux. Rev. Gilbert Léonian chaired the meeting. Participating were six representatives from France, three from Bulgaria, one each from Belgium, Greece, Turkey and the AMAA. Participating as guests, were Reverends Joel Mikaelian from France, René Léonian and Guevork Guevorkian from Armenia and Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian from the U.S. It was a privilege for me to be AMAA's representative this year to the meeting.

The field reports received from each member church, was heartwarming and encouraging. Through these reports, it was evident that Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide are providing a unique service to their communities, witnessing and making the Word of God available to those who are in need.

Updates and information from each area, I am sure, will interest our members and friends, and will provide an opportunity to thank God and praise Him to leading us do evangelical mission work in countries around the world.

BELGIUM

The Armenian population in Belgium numbers about 15,000. The Armenian Evangelical Church of Brussels is very active. The church was established by the AMAA. The Pastor, Rev. Sarkis Pachaian, was recently ordained. Members of the church are mainly Armenian immigrants from Turkey or Armenia. Two separate church services are



Participants in the 2nd biennial meeting of AEFU (l. to r.) Rev. Guevork Guevorkian, Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, Pastor Krikor Agabaloglu, Rev. Yervant Kazazian and Rev. Bedros Altounian.

held every Sunday. Attendance is about 40 in each group. Once every month, and on special occasions, the groups have joint services. The plan is to have both these groups joined. The church in Belgium is a missionary Church and it has started a fellowship in Anverse Belgium with 20 people attending. They also keep contact with groups that have started in Germany. Berdj Gumushde Artarian is a missionary serving in Germany.

BULGARIA

There are two active Armenian Evangelical Churches in South Bulgaria, namely in Sophia and Plovdiv. Sophia has 4000 Armenians. The church in Sofia has 90 members, with a Sunday School of 30 children. The pastor is Rev. Sarkis Paravazian.

The church in Plovdiv has 200 members. The Armenian population numbers 6000. Attendance at Church on Sunday is 250. Sister Josefina Keshishian and Mannig Kouyoumdjian serve the church. Both are very active, as they visit the elderly and organize Bible Studies at homes.

In North Bulgaria there are four Armenian Evangelical churches—in Varna, Rousse, Burgas and Choumen. Varna has 2500 Armenians. The church in Varna has 100 members, Russe 50 and Shouman 20. Rev. Bedros Altounian, Rev. Yervant Kazazian, Mrs. Mariam Altounian and Mr. Kalousd Demirjian serve these churches. A new sanctuary has been built in Varna which will be used by the Bulgarian Methodist Church as

well as the Armenian Evangelical Church.

GREECE

In recent years the Armenian population in Greece has increased in number due to immigration from Iran, Armenia and Lebanon. Greek Armenian population is only 10,000 in number, however, there are about 40,000 recent arrivals, mostly from Armenia. Greece is a transit station to the west. There are two active Armenian Evangelical Churches in Greece—in Kokinia and Neos Cosmos (Derghouty). Attendance is about 40 and 30, respectively. The Kokinia Church has a very active kindergarten with 25 students. The old building of the Derghouty Church in Neos Cosmos is being replaced with a decent building. Both churches have Sunday school, Youth Group and for the first time have organized a three-day camp. Rev. Vicken Cholakian from Beirut serves both churches as pastor.

FRANCE

There are twelve Armenian Evangelical churches in France with seven pastors serving. Two young graduates will join this year. Rev. Thierry Katandjian will serve in Marseille and Saint Loup, where the pastor Rev. Jean Agopian has just retired. Another young pastor, Rev. Sarkis Baroudjian who was serving on a part-time basis will soon serve the church just established in Arnouville, north of Paris.

(Continued on the following page)

Mission Visits to Brussels and Turkey

John A Zarifian

Two events – one in Brussels, the other in Istanbul – were the highlights of this mission from March 21 to May 1, 2001. After 10 services in three churches during the first two weeks in France, we held an Ordination Service on Palm Sunday, April 8, for Mr. Sarkis Pachaian in Brussels, Belgium.

It was Rev. Movses Janbazian, our late and dearly lamented Executive Director of the AMAA, who had seen the genuine spirit of a young Christian preacher in Mr. Pachaian, and had encouraged him greatly to enter the ministry. The AMAA financially supported his theological studies and is continuing to support his work to the Armenian Evangelical community in Belgium.

A remarkable element in the ordained Pastor's statement was the fact that he spoke in Armenian – which he learned only recently – in order to be able to minister to a group of new arrivals from Armenia.

The Second highlight of our mission was

the consecration of the newly refurbished Gedik Pasha Church in Istanbul. This special event took place on the Sunday after Easter, April 22, at 3:00 P.M., with a congregation of 400 drawn from many parts of this city of 12 million.

The sanctuary, located on the second floor, had completely deteriorated in the last 30 years. The current Pastor, Krikor Agabaloglu, determined to renovate the hall and the decayed second floor sanctuary. "I needed money," he says, "but God sent me Christian Turks from Moldavia who lovingly dedicated themselves in helping me rebuild God's House" – a "miracle," indeed, for those of us who have met these former Muslims who, in recent years, have turned to Christ.

One of these Christian Turks, a layman born in Istanbul, spoke from the pulpit. After his conversion to Jesus Christ, he founded a Radio Ministry that is spreading the Gospel seven days a week in all of Istanbul and Tur-

key. Many more Muslims of both Turkish or Iranian origin are turning to Christ. Our own Armenian Evangelical Church of Pera, where Armenian Evangelicals established their first church in the year 1846, has become the home church of Christian Turks, who come for worship every Sunday afternoon, following our morning services. In the occasional absence of the Pastor, Mrs. Sona, a graduate of the Istanbul Bible School founded by Canadians, conducts the Sunday morning services in both Armenian and Turkish. Mr. Ohannes Torkomian, the President of the church, together with his wife, are fully dedicated to the healthy functioning of the church's mission, which he accomplishes faithfully with his personal finances.

It is also a joy to report that there are about 40 circles of Armenian Christian women who gather in different homes of their neighborhood for Bible study and prayer. Women of Turkish origin converted to Christ also join in such fellowships. "The Lord works in mysterious ways" in Istanbul!

These mission visits could not have been accomplished without the support of the AMAA. We give the glory to God, and thank Him for his amazing Grace!□

(Continued from page 8)

There are 2,000 Armenians in this area. The churches in France are located in the following areas: Alfortville, 2000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Alain Bedikian; Paris, 100,000 Armenians; Issy Les Moulineaux, 5000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Gilbert Léonian; Lyon, 30,000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Krikor Khayigian; Decines, 1000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Krikor Khayigian; Valence, 6000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Ago Tchoghandjian; Pont D'auenas, 2000 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Ago Tchoghandjian; Montelimar, 200 Armenians, Pastor: Rev. Ago Tchoghandjian; Marseille Region, 100,000 Armenians, 5 churches: Beaumont, Rev. Joel Mikaelian; Saint-Antoine, Rev. Georges Dabbo; Saint-Loup, Rev. Jean Agopian; Marseille Centre, Rev. Jean Agopian; La Ciotat, Rev. Jean Agopian.

Churches in France and the Union are very well organized, and are doing missionary work in all of Europe. The Union in France was established in 1924. They have two campsites in La Source and La Fontanelle. Each church has Sunday School, Youth Group, and Ladies Guild. Each region has

a spiritual hour on the radio.

TURKEY

The Armenian Population in Turkey is estimated at 65,000. Armenian Evangelicals are considered as a separate community. Before the Armenian Genocide, there were over 200 Armenian Evangelical Churches in the area. There are now only two. The Church in Gedik Pasha, recently renovated, has four worship services on Sundays for four ethnic groups and in four languages - Armenian, Turkish, Russian and Persian. The leader is a dynamic pastor, Rev. Krikor Agabaloglu. It is amazing to witness that Christian Turks use an Armenian Church sanctuary to have their worship service. Moldavian Turks, who attend the church do missionary work, as they visit remote areas and distribute Bibles in the Turkish language.

The Armenian Evangelical Church in Pera is the first Armenian Evangelical Church throughout the world. The leader of the church is Mr. Hovhannes Torkomoglu. Thirty to forty people attend church services every Sunday. They sing in Armenian but

the sermons are preached in Turkish. Turk Christians use the sanctuary for their services in the afternoon

ENGLAND, GERMANY AND HOLLAND

These three areas are mission fields. There is need for spiritual revival especially in the new immigrants from Armenia and Turkey. They need our prayers, visits and support. There are Armenian Evangelical fellowships in these areas and we provide limited help through the distribution of Bibles and Devotional Literature. A German Missionary, Rev. Gotfreid Sauer is very active in serving Armenian immigrants in Germany. The AMAA is in contact with him on regular basis. A recent pastoral graduate is a candidate for Mission work in Europe. He will be visiting different countries in Europe, mainly places where there are no active Armenian Evangelical Churches.

The Fellowship of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Europe is a reality and needs much of our prayers and financial support. AMAA is a founding and supporting member.□

SYNOD OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF FRANCE



The Synod of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of France (May 24-26, 2001 in Issy Les-Moulineaux, Paris) was dedicated to the 1700th anniversary of the Armenian Christianity. The Synod this year was a forum with the participation of 30 pastors, theologians and lay leaders from France, Armenia, Greece, Lebanon and the United States. The theme was "With God For The People", presenting the contribution of Armenian Evangelicals to Armenian communities throughout the world. AMAA's representative this year was the Administrative Director Dikran Youmshakian, who took part in the forum. Pictured above are the participants in the Synod. □

AMAA JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has announced it will once again sponsor the James G. Jameson Essay Contest. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economy or history. Awards will be made in two categories: High School contestants and College/University contestants. The deadline for entries is extended to August 15, 2001.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students are eligible. Only unpublished entries will be accepted. The winner in each category will be awarded \$250.00, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and no more than one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious, no award will be granted that year.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to:
AMAA - James G. Jameson Essay Contest
 31 West Century Road
 Paramus, NJ 07652

AMAA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is seeking a volunteer who has the expertise to apply for grants to charitable foundations and organizations for a variety of AMAA projects in Armenia, the Middle East, and other parts of the world.

In time the position may develop to a part time or a full-time employment.

If interested or know of someone who is qualified for the position, please call the AMAA office during business hours.

Thank you for spreading the word to your congregation. Joy and peace!

A BLESSED FIRST ANNIVERSARY

It was with great excitement and anticipation that the fledgling Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale, California, planned the celebration of its first anniversary with a most memorable banquet.

Some 240 members, friends, pastors and supporters from sister churches in Southern California and beyond, gathered on Saturday, May 25, at the spacious *Anoush Restaurant* hall to join their year-old sister church, thank and praise God for the gift of life and the privilege and opportunity to be Christ's loving and caring presence in the city of Glendale.

The warm spirit of hospitality and the "Tender Loving Care" which had been invested in the planning and execution of the banquet was felt from the welcoming words of the MC, Mr. Roy Boulghourjian, to the final benediction of The Rev. Mgrditch Melkonian. A rich cultural program which

included vocal and instrumental solos and recitations, and an exquisite abundant table of Armenian delicacies, along with the messages of the two keynote speakers: Dr. Mihran Agbabian in Armenian, and The Rev. Jirair Sogomian in English, made the evening a most memorable one for all present. The planning committee also expressed the gratitude of the congregation to their pastor, The Rev. Barkev Darakjian, for his sacrificial ministry, and a few of its lay leaders for their inspiring leadership.

We congratulate Church Moderator and Banquet Committee Chairs Mr. & Mrs. Jo-



Rev. Barkev Darakjian (left) with a few church council members: Mary Agulian and Vartiter & Joseph Dornian.

seph and Vartiter Dornian as well as the entire Church Board and the Banquet Committee. We rejoice with the saints in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Glendale and pray the Lord of the Church to help them grow in stature and spirit to fulfill their noble mission in the city of Glendale and beyond! □

AMAA PARTICIPATES IN ALEXANDRIA, VA ARMENIAN FESTIVAL



The Annual Armenian Festival organized by the Alexandria-Gumri Exchange Committee was held on Saturday, May 19, 2001 in the center of the Old City Alexandria, Virginia. The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), as in previous years, participated with a display of books, bibles, and other literature on the mission and services of the AMAA.

A special effort was made this year to raise money for sneakers for poor children attend-

ing camps in Armenia. The response to this touching appeal was overwhelming as people contributed generously to this unique project.

The Alexandria-Gumri Exchange Committee sponsors five orphan and needy children in Armenia through the AMAA each year. Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, the Administrative Director of the AMAA participated in the Festival promoting the mission and services of the Association in Armenia and specially to the city of Gumri. □

HRANT AGBABIAN CONDUCTS A CELEBRATORY CONCERT

On the anniversary date July 1 of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church, a celebratory concert commemorating the 1700th anniversary of the Christianization of Armenia was held at the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) in Los Angeles. A joint choir of 45 members of the three Armenian Evangelical Churches performed *sharagans* and other liturgical selections. Conductor, Hrant Agbabian, had chosen meaningful Evangelical pieces reflecting the spiritual aspect of music in worship. Nune Kartalyan, Raffi Kerbabian and Suzie Mazmanian were the soloists and Martha Sarian was the organist.

Rev. Barkev Darakjian delivered the message reflecting on the two anniversaries being celebrated. Over six hundred people were in the audience including dignitaries and clergy.

This celebratory event was coordinated by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. Rev. Mgrditch Melkonian, Associate Pastor of UACC was the coordinator and gave the opening remarks. A prayer was offered by The Rev. Apraham Chaparian. Closing remarks were offered by The Rev. Karl Avakian, minister of the Union and The Rev. Ron Tovmassian of UACC. The concert concluded with the triumphant singing of the long version of the Doxology. □

ՏՕՔԹ. ՀՐԱՅՐ ՖԻԼԻՓ ՅՈՎՆԱՆԵԱՆ 1914-2001

Լուիզա Ճանպազեան

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը սրտի խոր կսկիծով կը գուժէ մահը իր նախկին նախագահ՝ Տօքթ. Հրայր Ֆիլիփ Յովնանեանի, որ պատահեցաւ Ուրբաթ, Մայիս 25, 2001-ին, Նիւ Եորքի մէջ, յետ երկարատեւ հիւանդութեան:

Տօքթ. Յովնանեան ծնած է Հալէպ, Սուրիա: Ան գաւակն է հանրածանօթ բժիշկ Ֆիլիփ եւ Տիկին Ռօզա (Ճէպէնեան) Յովնանեանի: Հալէպի մէջ իր նախնական եւ երկրորդական ուսումը ստանալէ ետք ան յաճախած է Պէյրութի Ամերիկեան Համալսարանը ուրկէ վկայուած է Պսակաւոր Գիտութեան տիտղոսով՝ Բնագիտութեան մէջ: Ապա գաղթած է Միացեալ Նահանգներ եւ յաճախած է Փրովիտընսի (Ռօտ Այլընտ) Պրաուն Համալսարանը եւ անկէ վկայուած է Մագիստրոս Գիտութեան տիտղոսով, դարձեալ Բնագիտութեան մէջ: Յաճախած է նաեւ Պոսթընի համալսարանը եւ ապա Պէլըրի Հիլզի (Գալֆորնիա) համալսարանը ուրկէ ստացած է իր Տոքթորայի տիտղոսը: Ամուսնացած է 1948-ին Սիրան Նորեանի հետ եւ ունեցած երեք զաւակներ՝ Ռօզմըրի Ճէնիս, Ճոն Անիթա եւ Ճան Ֆիլիփ: 1949-էն ետք ան ստանձնած է բազմաթիւ բարձրաստիճան պաշտօններ բժշկական-մեքենագիտական տարբեր յայտնի ընկերութիւններու մէջ: Անոր անունը յիշուած է շատ մը գիտական անձնաւորութեանց յատուկ գիրքերու մէջ (Who's Who):

Տօքթ. Յովնանեան երկար տարիներ անդամ եղած է Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան եւ հաւատարմաբար ու մեծ մուրհակով ծառայած է անոր որպէս Վարչական Խորհուրդի եւ տարբեր յանձնախումբերու անդամ: Ան իր իմաստութեամբ եւ բազմապիսի կարողութիւններով մեծապէս սատարած է Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան ընդհանուր գործունէութիւններուն՝ տարբեր մարզերէ ներս: 1988-ի Նոյեմբերին ան ընտրուած է Նախագահ՝ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Վարչական Խորհուրդին: Իր ընտրութենէն հազիւ ամիս մը ետք տեղի ունեցաւ Հայաստանի աղետալի երկրաշարժը որուն զոհը գացին աւելի քան 25,000 հայորդիներ: Կարծես նախախնամական էր Տօքթ. Յովնանեանի Նախագահ ընտրուիլը այդ օրերուն: Ան մեր վաղամերիկ Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝ Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանպազեանի հետ անմիջապէս գործի լծուեցաւ օգնութեան հասնելու Հայաստանի անյետաճգելի կարիքներուն: Այդ օրերուն Տօքթ. Յովնանեան գրեթէ ամէն օր անձնապէս Հայ Աւետարանչական



Տօքթ. Հրայր Ֆիլիփ Յովնանեան (մէջտեղ կայնած) Ադիւս շինող մեքենայի մը առջեւ որ Հայաստանի մուրհակեցաւ 1989-ին Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան կողմէ:

Ընկերակցութեան Բըրէմըսի (Նիւ Ճըրզի) կեդրոնատեղին կուգար օգնելու Գործադիր Տնօրէնին եւ գրասենեակի պաշտօնէութեան, որոնք օր ու գիշեր անխոնջ կ'աշխատէին օգնութիւն հասցնելու Հայաստանի ու անոր աղէտեալներուն:

Տօքթ. Յովնանեան մուրհակուած Հայ մըն էր ու խորունկ հաւատացեալ մը: Ան կը սիրէր իր Եկեղեցին ու կը ծառայէր անոր անձնուրաբար: Եկեղեցին կարծես եղած էր անոր երկրորդ տունը: Ան ծառայած է որպէս Ատենապետ եւ Խնամակալ Վոթըրթաունի (Պոսթըն) Հայ Նահատակաց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին եւ Հանթինկթընի (Նիւ Եորք) տեղական ժողովական Եկեղեցիին: Ապա երկար տարիներ անդամ եղած է Նիւ Եորքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին եւ ծառայած է անոր որպէս Սարկաւագ, ինչպէս նաեւ Խնամակալութեան եւ Հոգաբարձութեան Ատենապետ:

Կիրակի, Յունիս 24, 2001-ին Յիշատակի Պաշտամունք մը տեղի ունեցաւ Նիւ Եորքի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին մէջ եւ Շաբաթ, Յունիս 30, 2001-ին անոր ահիւնները փոխադրուեցան Պոսթըն եւ զետեղուեցան ընտանեկան դամբանին մէջ:

Տօքթ. Յովնանեանի մահով, Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, ինչպէս նաեւ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին կորսնցուց իր վաստակաւոր եւ մուրհակ անդամներէն մէկը: Անոր յիշատակը ու թողուցած աւանդը անդարամ պիտի մնայ մեր բոլորին սրտերուն մէջ: □

ԷԶՄԻԱԾԻՆԻ ՏՕՆԸ

Յովհաննէս Ն. Գաբրիել

Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցին «Կաթողիկէ Սուրբ Էջմիածին»ի տօնը կը նշէ Հոգեգալուստի յաջորդող երկրորդ Կիրակին: Աւանդութեան համաձայն, այս տօնը յիշատակութիւնն է Սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչին մէկ տեսիլքին, որուն համաձայն Յիսուս կ'իջնէր Վաղարշապատի հեթանոսական մեհեանին վրայ, կը քանդէր զայն եւ նոյն վայրին վրայ կը կառուցանէր եկեղեցի մը: Եկեղեցական մեր հայրերուն համար այս աւանդութիւնը ունի խորհրդանշական իմաստ, մատնանշելու համար Հայ Եկեղեցիին ծնունդը եւ անոր առաքելական հեղինակութիւնը: Պէտք է նկատել, ուրեմն, որ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցին ցեղային կամ «ազգային» եկեղեցի չէ: Առաջին օրէն, Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցին գիտակցած է Քրիստոսի եկեղեցիին տիեզերական հանգամանքին սկզբունքային կարեւորութեան: Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ՝ ինք՝ գիտակից էր իր պարթեւեան ծագումին եւ կը հաւատար, որ քրիստոնէական հաւատքը հայկական «հնարք» մը չէր...:

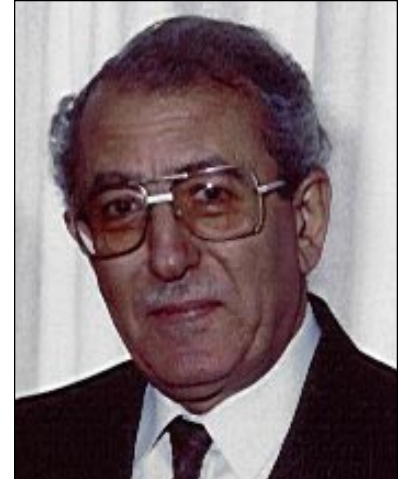
Գրիգոր տեղեակ էր այն իրողութեան՝ թէ քրիստոնէական հաւատքը Հայաստան բերողներն էին Թադէոս եւ Բարթողոմէոս առաքեալները, որոնք նահատակուեցան հայերու կողմէ, յաջորդող տարիներուն նահատակուող ուրիշ այր եւ կին «միսիոնարներուն» նման: Գրիգոր ինք ալ անձնապէս չարչարանքի ենթակուած էր քրիստոնէական հաւատքին համար, զոր ինք ժառանգած էր ոչ-հայկական աղբիւրներէ՝ Կեսարիայի մէջ: Ահա թէ ինչո՞ւ Աստուծոյ Միածին Որդին էջքի բացառիկ տեսիլքը չէր կրնար ըլլալ ուրիշ բան, բայց միայն կաթողիկէ, որ կը նշանակէ տիեզերական: Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ կը հաւատար եկեղեցիին հարազատ կաթողիկէութեան, կամ՝ տիեզերականութեան:

Կաթողիկէ Սուրբ Էջմիածինի տօնին առիթով նշանակուած աստուածաշնչական ընթերցումներէն մէկն է Եբրայեցիս 9. 1-14 հատուածը, ուր կը շեշտուի Հին Ուխտին Նոր Ուխտով փոխարինուելու պարագան: Հեղինակը կ'ընէ բաղդատականը Հինին եւ Նորին միջեւ: Յիսուս Քրիստոս կը փոխարինէ քահանա-

յապետը, Հին Կտակարանի մէջ յիշուած վրանը, սեղանը, տապանակը, ներկայութեան հացը, նոխաղներուն արիւնը, Սրբութիւն սրբոցը, եւ ամէն ինչ, որ առնչուած է Հինին հետ: Ամէն բան նորոգուած է՝ վրանը, հացը, եւ հաստատուած՝ նոր ներկայութիւն մը, նոր սրբութիւն մը եւ յաւիտեական Հոգին եւ այս բոլորը՝ Քրիստոսի գերազոյն զոհողութեամբ:

Ահա թէ ինչո՞ւ Էջմիածինի տօնը գերազանցապէս իմաստալից է: Առանց Աստուծոյ Միածինին էջքին, եկեղեցի գոյութիւն չունի, ո՛չ Էջմիածինի մէջ, ո՛չ երկրագունդին որեւէ անկիւնին մէջ: Եւ Միածինին էջքով հաստատուած եկեղեցին սուրբ է եւ կաթողիկէ: Այդպիսին էր այն եկեղեցին, զոր Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ ճանչցած էր եւ որուն կը ծառայէր: Միսիոնարական եկեղեցի էր անորը, իր անունին հաւատարիմ: Այդ օրերու Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցին կ'աւետարանէր հարեւան ազգերը, Քրիստոսը կը քարոզէր հոն բնակող ժողովուրդներուն եւ ցեղերուն լեզուներով, եւ եկեղեցի կը հաստատէր: Միայն հետագային էր, որ Հայ եկեղեցին դարձաւ պաշտպանողական եւ կորսնցուց իր աւետարանական խոյանքը եւ ... տուժեց:

Այսօր, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, կամ այլ որեւէ եկեղեցի, կը հակասէ ինքզինք, եթէ մոռնայ իր աւետարանական նկարագիրը եւ ընդհանրական (կաթողիկէ) հանգամանքը, դիմելով պաշտպանողական ռազմավարութեան: Վերապրելու եւ իր հիմնական բնութեան ու ճակատագիրին հաւատարիմ մնալու համար, եկեղեցին յիշելու է Կաթողիկէ Սուրբ Էջմիածինը, այսինքն՝ Աստուծոյ Միածին Որդին էջքը, որպէսզի մնայ Անոր առաքելութեան մէջ, վայելելով Անոր ներկայութիւնն ու օրհնութիւնը յաւիտ: □



Flora Gopoian

Flora Gopoian was born March 15, 1915 in Bursa, Turkey to Vartan and Sarah Tomassian. She was the youngest daughter in the family, after Miriam and Theresa. The youngest member of the family was her brother Paroonag.



She was ahead of her time, as she worked hard to get an education, a practice not accepted for women at that time. Her higher education included three years at the American High School in Beirut and three years at Junior College of Beirut. Her education allowed her to share her knowledge through a post as a math teacher at the American High School in Beirut. This was quite an accomplishment for an Armenian woman at that time.

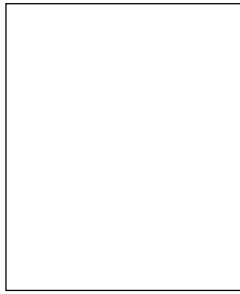
She came to the United States in 1947 after being married in Beirut to Arpiar Gopoian, who traveled from the United States to marry her. Flora's outstanding organization skills facilitated her involvement in many different organizations, both religious and political. Her accomplishments included: Treasurer of the Tekeyan Cultural Society, member of the Organizing Committee for the AGBU, member and Treasurer for the ADL in Beirut, FAC (First Armenian Church of Boston) delegate to almost all church conventions for many years, member and Treasurer of the FAC Senior Ladies Aid, FAC Trustee, organizer of the FAC Church pictorial directory for five years, Treasurer for the AMAA for 10 years, established the FAC Benevolence Committee raising money for children's education in Armenia and Beirut, and worked at Workingman's Coop Bank for 24 years in the Payroll and Bookkeeping Departments.

Flora always defended what was right. She was often outspoken in her defense of any worthy cause and would take an opposition when necessary.

Socially, she was an excellent hostess and entertained many dignitaries from both the United States and abroad. She was a good friend and always helpful, thoughtful and ready to offer her services to those who needed her. She was a beloved member of her family, and was always concerned and interested in their lives. She gave generously of both her time and energy. Flora will be truly missed by her friends and family who loved and treasured her. Family and friends will forever remember and love her. □

Yeghia Manjelian

Yeghia Manjelian was born in Sepastia, Turkey (Western Armenia) on March 24, 1922 to Hagop and Satenig Manjelian. He was the oldest of four brothers. He also had an older and a younger sister. Yeghia's father



was a miller by trade and this vocation became their means of survival from the genocide. He was also a devout Christian who assumed the role of the local priest gathering the remaining Armenians and providing for them spiritual leadership.

At an early age, Yeghia was forced to drop out of school to carry on the family trade, due to the poor health of his father. However, he made sure that his younger brothers would stay in school. Throughout his life, his concern was always first toward the welfare of his family before his own. In 1941, he was drafted into the military where he served for four years until his discharge. He was 19 at the time and it was the first time that he had left his childhood village of Yulduz Eli having been transferred to Ankara to work as a carpenter in the military academy. This is where he learned the trade of carpentry, which became his life long vocation.

Soon after his discharge, Yeghia decided to immigrate to Syria where there seemed to be better living opportunities for him and his family. In 1952, he met Lucy. A year later they were married and the newly formed family was blessed with three children: Seta, Hagop and Ani.

In 1956, Yeghia with his wife and their first child immigrated to Lebanon, where the family grew and became part of the local Armenian community. In 1969 they immigrated to the United States and made their new home in Watertown, Mass.

In 1988, after his retirement he moved to Pasadena, CA where he became very active in the ministry of the church. The day before his 79th birthday he was diagnosed with lung cancer. He was not afraid of death because he was strongly grounded in his Christian faith. To his dying breath he confessed of his love for his Savior as well as his love for his motherland, Armenia and of his family. His last words were that God would bless and preserve Armenia. He went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, May 29, 2001.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts were sent to the AMAA, designated for the Yeghia Manjelian Memorial Fund. □

Zabel Bilezikjian

Zabel Bilezikjian was born to Bedros and Kohar Vahanian on February 20, 1916 in Marash, Turkey. She was one of nine children born to her father. Only three sisters survived into adulthood (two older



sisters were Siroun and Lydia). During the Armenian Genocide, having found refuge along with her parents and younger brother in the American Missionary Compound in Marash, Zabel devoted her life to music and mastered the piano and the organ under the tutelage of Mrs. Bessie Lyman. During this time, she also became fluent in the English language. In 1934, at the age of 18, Zabel left Turkey with her parents and younger brother and established a new life in Aleppo, Syria.

In Aleppo, Zabel devoted over 30 years to the Emmanuel Armenia Evangelical Church, first as a pianist and organist for the youth group and later as the church music director. Music was an integral part of her life: she gave piano lessons and played in concerts in the community as a soloist as well as an accompanist.

In 1935, he married Youhanna Bilezikjian, a renowned designer and tailor of clothing for men. They had two sons and two daughters. A great priority for Zabel was to provide the best educational opportunities for her children. In 1965, they moved to the United States to be closer to their children and settled in West Los Angeles. Her education in the American Missionary School in Marash helped her feel at home in the United States.

After the death of her husband in June of 1971, her life revolved around her family including five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She retired and moved to Anaheim Hills in 1994 to be close to her son Zaven and his family. Her family has been her greatest joy.

A sudden heart attack on June 17th proved fatal. She passed away on June 19, 2001. Zabel lived a blessed life and was dearly loved by her family, relatives, friends, and members of the community. Many were blessed with her love, faith and devotion. She will be missed dearly.

Zabel is survived by Children (spouses) Vahe (Grace), Berta (Richard), Zaven and Louise; Grandchildren (spouses): Tina, John (Marilia), Tanya, Sandra Mark; Great Grandchildren: Ann Zabel, Deron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts were sent to the AMAA, designated for the Zabel and Youhanna Bilezikjian Memorial Fund. □

Lucy Johnson

Lucy Johnson of Warwick, RI died on June 6, 2001. She was the wife of the late Richard Johnson, mother of Linda Pederson, Judith Johnson and the late Janice Rogan who died of cancer in 1998, sister of Harry Kouyoumjian and Diane Koumjian, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of three.

Lucy was a life long member of the Armenian Euphrates Church of Providence, RI, and was active in the life of the church. She loved classical music, especially opera. She was a radiology technician and she worked until her retirement.

Last year, she took a special course to become a child advocate, and at the beginning of this year she was sworn as an officer of the court to work with children at risk. However, she was never able to follow through on this work. In March 2001, she went in for an operation for pancreatic cancer, and after several complications, she went home to be with the Lord.

Funeral services were held in the Armenian Euphrates Church and memorial donations in her memory were sent to the AMAA designated for the Orphan/Child Care programs in Armenia. □

James Misirian

James H. Misirian died at IHS Broomall, PA at the age of 86.

Born in Turkey, Mr. Misirian lived in Marple Township. He formerly lived in Upper Darby for 20 years and in Philadelphia for 10 years.

He graduated from West Philadelphia High School and has been employed as a mechanic for the Ford Motor Co. in Chester, PA. He was also the proprietor of James Auto Repair Shop on Baltimore Avenue in Philadelphia for more than 20 years. At one time, he worked as a service manager at the Springfield Dodge agency.

His religious affiliation was with Grace Chapel, Havertown, PA.

He is survived by his spouse, Anna (nee Asadorian) whom he married in 1940; daughters, Lucille Niez of France and Joan Munro of Norristown, PA; a son, Dr. James H. Jr. of Wisconsin; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Grace Chapel, with the Rev. Robert McGann officiating. Interment was private.

Mr. Misirian always held steadfast to his Christian faith and love for His God and his family.

Memorial donations in his name were sent to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

Մարի Մուրատեան

—Զուարթ Համպագեան (Դուստրը)

Հալէպի Հայ Աւետարանական Բերէլ վարժարանի հաստարիմ մէկ ծառան, իր 28 երկար տարիներու ծառայութեամբ եւ իր պատկարելի կեանքը աւարտելով, երկրային այս բնակութեան վայրը ձգելով յաւիտեան կան քաղաքացիութեան տիրացաւ Յունիս 3, 2001-ին:



Հալէպի Բերէլ դպրոցն ու եկեղեցին եղած են իր երկրորդական տունները: Ոչ մէկ խնամք չէ զլացած տալու իւրաքանչիւր աշակերտի, ուսուցիչի, տնօրէնի: Ամոնք բոլորը իր հարազատները եղած են անխտիր: 1976-ին, Բերէլ եկեղեցւոյ տիկնամց միութիւնը պատուած է զինք որպէս «Տարուայ Մայր»:

Իր հանգիստ բնակութեամբ ու Աստուծոյ վախը իր սրտին մէջ, ան իր երկու զաւակները՝ Ճէթա եւ Զուարթ, մեծցուցած է Աստուածալախ, զանոնք ուղարկելով Բերէլ վարժարան, կիրակնօրեայ դպրոց, Զանից-երիտասարդաց եւ եկեղեցի: Իր պարտականութիւնը կատարած է լի ու լի: Աստուած պարգեւած է իրեն 3 թոռներ որոնց սրտերուն մէջ ալ դրոշմած է նոյն Աստուծոյ սնունդը:

Իր կեանքի վերջին հանգրուանին ան բարեգութ հոգատարներու խնամքին յանձնուեցաւ եւ իր մահկանացուն կնքեց Աստուծոյ խաղաղութիւնը ունենալով իր սրտին մէջ:

Տիկին Մարի Մուրատեան իր կեանքի բարի պատերազմը պատերազմեցաւ, հաւատքը պահեց եւ այսօր իր երկնային բնակարանին մէջ ուրախութեան երգերով կը փառարանէ զԱստուած իր միւս Տէրոջմով ննջող սիրելիներուն հետ: □

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA News:

Aghazarian, Arsen
N. Hollywood, CA
Antrasian, Rose
Havertown, PA
* **Ashjian, Azadouhie**
Emerson, NJ
* **Babikian, Souren**
Los Angeles, CA
* **Bogosian, Mary**
Brockton, MA
Carlson, John "Bud"
Des Plaines, IL

Casparian, Victoria
Santa Barbara, CA
Collier, Hasmig
Glendale, CA

* **Diarian, Krikor**
Cairo, Egypt
* **Dogramajian, Estelle**
Flushing, NY

Donabedian, Avedis
Ann Arbor, MI
Donigian, Alice
Beirut, Lebanon
Donigian, Paramaz
Beirut, Lebanon

* **Goshgarian, Kazar**
Fairbanks, AS

* **Hamalian, Onnig**
Rivervale, NJ

* **Hazarossian, Leon**
Clearwater, FL

Hoplamajian, John
Rockledge, PA

Jameson Flint, Lucille
Laguna Hills, CA

Jebejian, Robert
Aleppo, Syria

* **Johnson, Edward E.**
Santa Barbara, CA

* **Kalajian, Alice**
Watertown, MA

Kapoian Kayane
Paris, France

* **Kevorkian, Warrant**
San Diego, CA

* **Melikian, Hrachia**
White Plains, NY

* **Melikian, Nina**
White Plains, NY

Messerlian, Satenig
Beirut, Lebanon

* **Ohnigian Suran B.**
Bryn Mawr, PA

* **Philibosian, Vernoica**
Chalfont, PA

* **Phillian, Alex**
West Paterson, NJ

* **Svajian Pergrouhi**
New York, NY

* **Williams Jr., Gustave F.**
Maywood, NJ

* **Allahverdian, Hampartzoum**
* **Altomari, Domingo**

Karabetian, Rose

* **Keklikian, Meline**

* **Khatchadourian, Kohar**

* **Khatchadourian, Luther**

N. Kayne, Lynn

Nofal, Jr., Henry

Orchanian, Melkon

* **Pilibosian, Krikor**
Sourenian, Rose

**OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 82ND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

The Eighty Second Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (AMAA), will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, 26210 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI.

All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Executive Director, Committees, Chapters, and Affiliated boards of the Association for fiscal 2000-2001;
- II. Consider and approve the financial reports for fiscal 2000-2001;
- III. Announce the results of the elected eight Board members to replace those whose terms have expired;
- IV. Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor;
- VI. Consider and approve the Association's budget for fiscal 2001-2002, and
- VII. Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 82ND ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 18

10:00 a.m. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RETREAT - Theme: "Missions in the 21st Century"

Friday, October 19

9:00 a.m. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RETREAT

7:00 p.m. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Saturday, October 20

9:00 a.m. 82ND ANNUAL MEETING

2:00 p.m. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

7:00 p.m. AMAA BANQUET AND ARTISTIC PROGRAM

Sunday, October 21

11:00 a.m. ANNUAL MEETING WORSHIP SERVICE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

As members of the AMAA world-wide family, we look forward to this annual gathering to renew our ties of fellowship as Armenian Evangelical churches and communities, and to strengthen our common mission around the world. With joy we eagerly anticipate your presence and participation.

Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

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